

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8722

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4314

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, SA

SUBJ: ANTI-U.S. TONE OF PRAVDA ARTICLES ON FAISAL ASSASSINATION

REF: MOSCOW 4251

1. DURING SPASO LUNCH MARCH 28 I REMONSTRATED WITH KORNIYENKO ABOUT THE TONE OF THE PRAVDA ARTICLES YESTERDAY (REFTEL) AND TODAY ON FAISAL ASSASSINATION, WHICH -- ALTHOUGH QUOTING ARAB PRESS -- LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION OF U.S. COMPLICITY. I EMPHASIZED THAT ARTICLES WERE PARTICULARLY HARMFUL AT A TIME WHEN CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDES ON ME BY ALL PARTIES INVOLVED ARE ESSENTIAL. KORNIYENKO PLED IGNORANCE OF ARTICLES BUT PROMISED TO CHECK.

2. AT SAME LUNCH, POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED ARTICLES WITH KORNIYENKO'S DEPUTY FEDOSEYEV, WHO SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY AGREED THAT THEY WERE TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR AND "STUPID" IN THAT IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT FAISAL WAS PRO-AMERICAN. FEDOSEYEV STATED FURTHER THAT THIS WAS "ANOTHER" EXAMPLE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY AND INACCURACY OF SOVIET PRESS.

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STOESSEL

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